

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for controlling the idle speed of a hybrid electric vehicle drive system or transaxle (10) including an internal combustion engine (12), a generator/motor (14) which is coupled to engine (12) by use of a planetary gear set (20), and an electric motor (16). Drive system (10) includes a brake or clutch assembly (34) which is operatively and selectively coupled to a generator/motor (14) and is effective to supplement the generator-produced reaction torque, thereby cooperating with the generator/motor (14) to control the idle speed of engine (12) in a wide variety of engine operating conditions.

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